



Mayor's Office of New Bostonians  
Cheng Imm Tan, Director

# New Bostonians 2005



Boston  
Redevelopment  
Authority

Research Division  
Alvaro Lima, Director



Mayor's Office of New Bostonians  
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This report was prepared for the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians by the BRA Research Division under the direction of Alvaro Lima, Director.

The information provided within this report is the best available at the time of its publication.



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# New Bostonians 2005

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# New Bostonians 2005

## ■ Demographics





## 33.5 Million Immigrants Live in the U.S. (2000)

- Immigrants account for more than 1 in 10 residents (11.7%), the highest percentage in 70 years, but still lower than that of 1910.
- Since 1990, 43% more immigrants live in the United States.
- Between 1990 and 2000, immigrants accounted for 41% of the growth of the nation's population and 48% of the growth of the nation's labor force.

In 2000, the nation's largest immigrant groups were Latinos and Asians:

- 53% are from Latin America;
- 25% are from Asia;
- 13.7% are from Europe;
- 8% are from other regions in the world.



# Massachusetts has the 7<sup>th</sup> Largest Immigrant Population

- As of 2004, the Massachusetts (MA) immigrant population totaled 906,866, 14.3% of the state's population.
- Between 2000 and 2004, 172,054 new immigrants came to MA. If not for this influx, the population would have decreased.
- Between 2000 and 2004, 47.3% of MA immigrants were from Latin America and the Caribbean and 23.1% from Asia.
- Brazil has become the largest source of immigrants in MA. From 2000 to 2003, nearly 1 out of 5 immigrants entering MA was Brazilian.



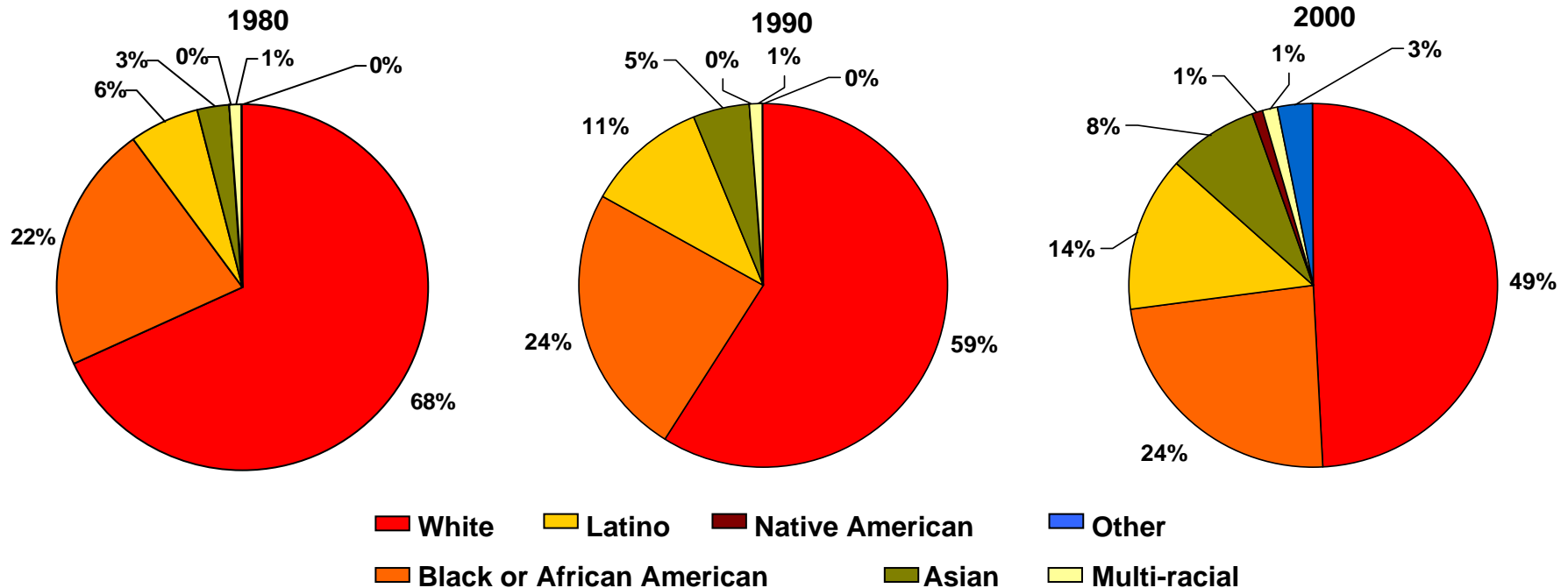
# Boston's Immigrant Population is Growing

- Over the last two decades the share of Boston's foreign-born population has increased at a faster pace than Massachusetts and the U.S.
- In 1990, 114,597 immigrants accounted for 20% of the city's total population.
- In 2000, the foreign-born population in Boston was 151,836 accounting for 26% of the city's total population.
- Boston's foreign-born population comes predominantly from the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Africa and represents more than 100 different countries.
  - Caribbean immigrants make up 59% of all immigrants from the Americas.
  - Haitian immigrants make up the largest share of Boston's immigrants.

# Boston's Minority Groups Have Become the City's New "Majority"

- Latinos (14.4%), Asians (7.5%), and Blacks or African Americans (23.8%) together with other minorities make up 50.5 percent of the city's total population.
- Since 1990, the Latino population has increased by 37.3% and the Asian population by 46.7%.

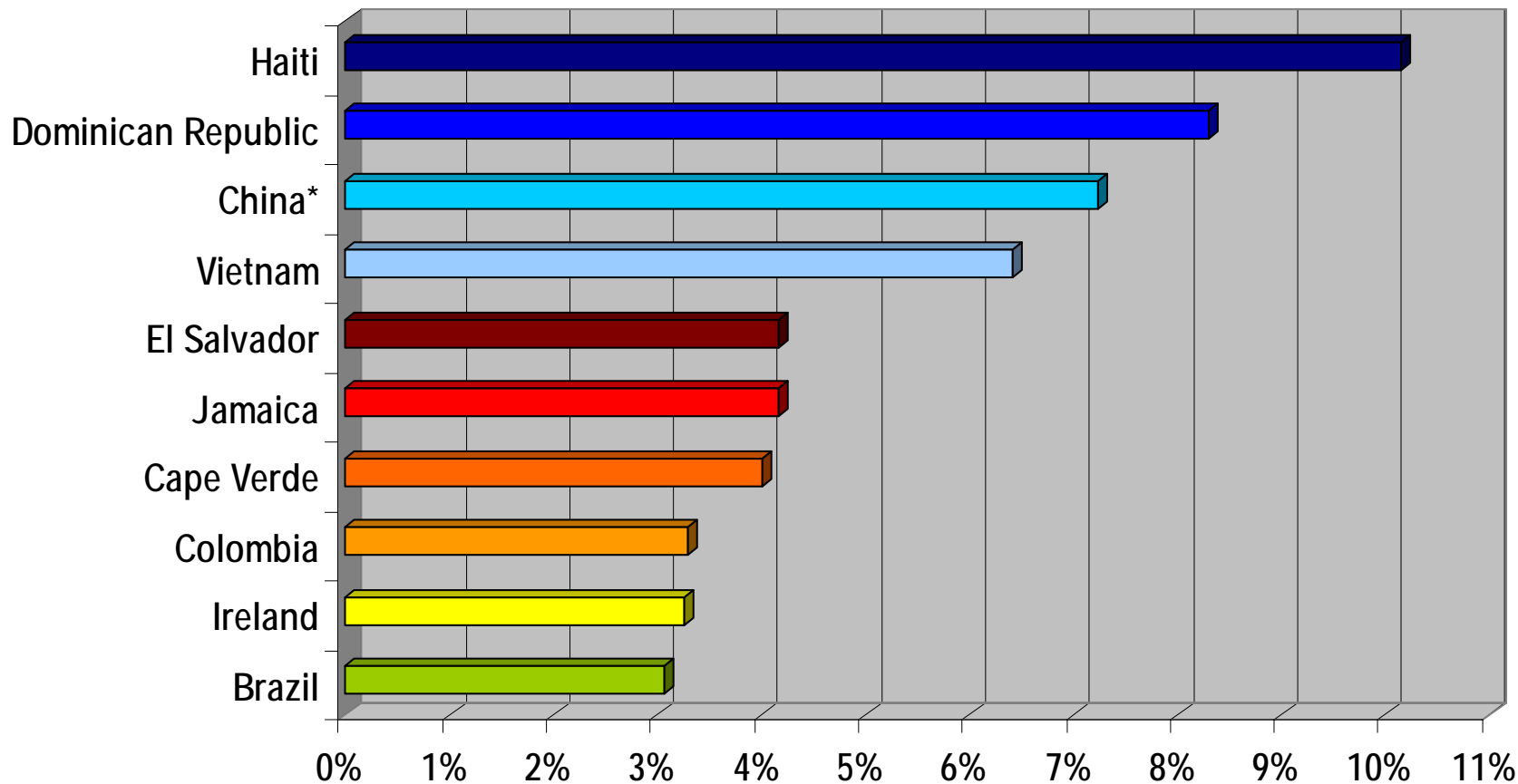
Changes in Race and Ethnicity from 1980 to 2000





# New Bostonians Leading Countries of Origin

Top Countries of Origin for Boston's Foreign-Born Population, 2000



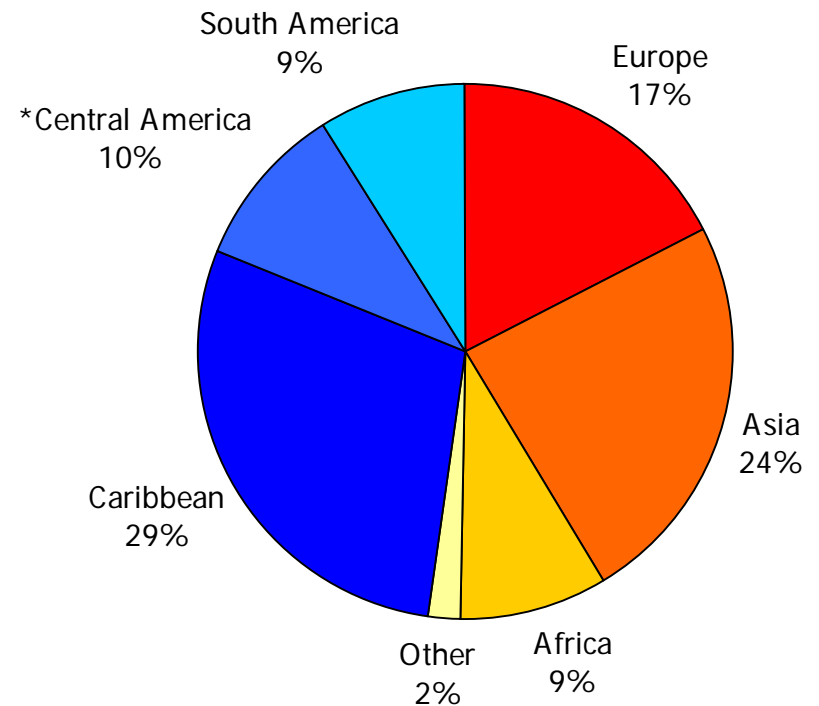
Note: \* Only China mainland; does not include Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, BRA Research Division Analysis.

# New Bostonians are a Growing Population

- Boston had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of foreign-born residents among the 23 largest U.S. cities in 2000.
- Half of New Bostonians come from the Americas (48%), followed by Asia (24%), Europe (17%), and Africa (9%).
- The three largest immigrant group populations in Boston in 2000 were from Haiti (10%), Dominican Republic (8%), and China (7%).

**Top Regions of Boston's Foreign-Born, 2000**

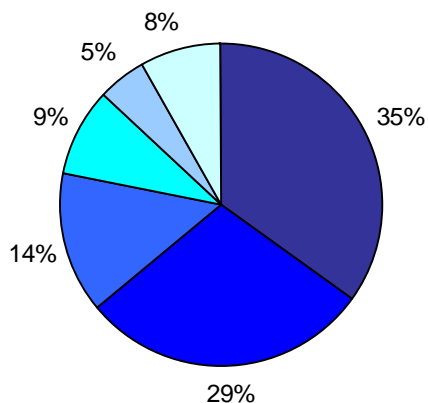


Note: \*Central America includes Mexico.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, BRA Research Division Analysis.

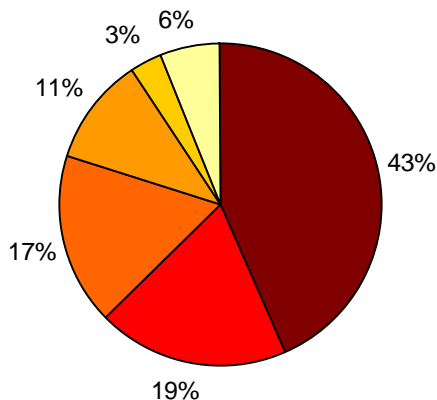
# Boston's Caribbean, Central, and South American Leading Countries of Origin (2000)

## Caribbean



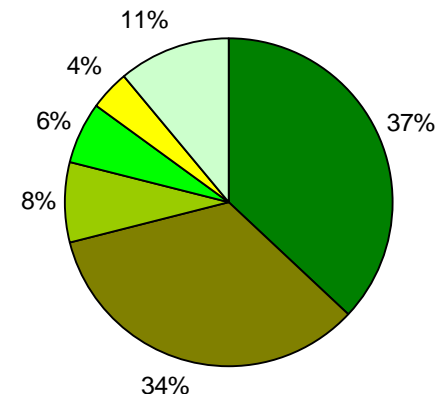
- Haiti
- Dominican Republic
- Jamaica
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Barbados
- Other

## Central America



- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Panama
- Other

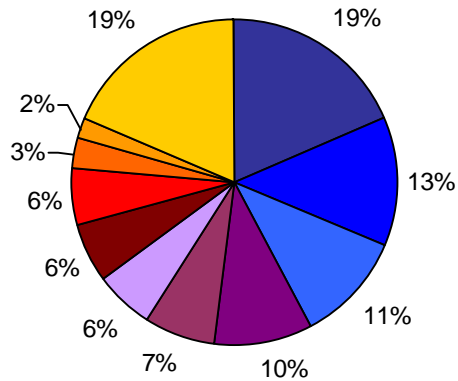
## South America



- Colombia
- Brazil
- Peru
- Venezuela
- Guyana
- Other

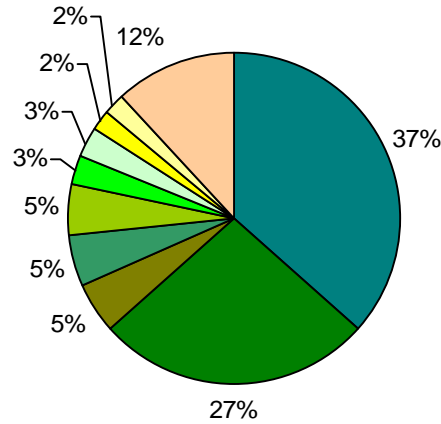
# Boston's European, Asian, and African Leading Countries of Origin (2000)

**Europe**



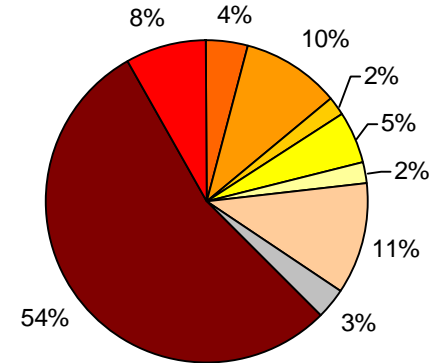
- Ireland
- Italy
- Russia
- United Kingdom
- Ukraine
- Greece
- Germany
- Poland
- France
- Portugal
- Other

**Asia**



- China
- Vietnam
- Korea
- India
- Japan
- Philippines
- Lebanon
- Pakistan
- Turkey
- Other

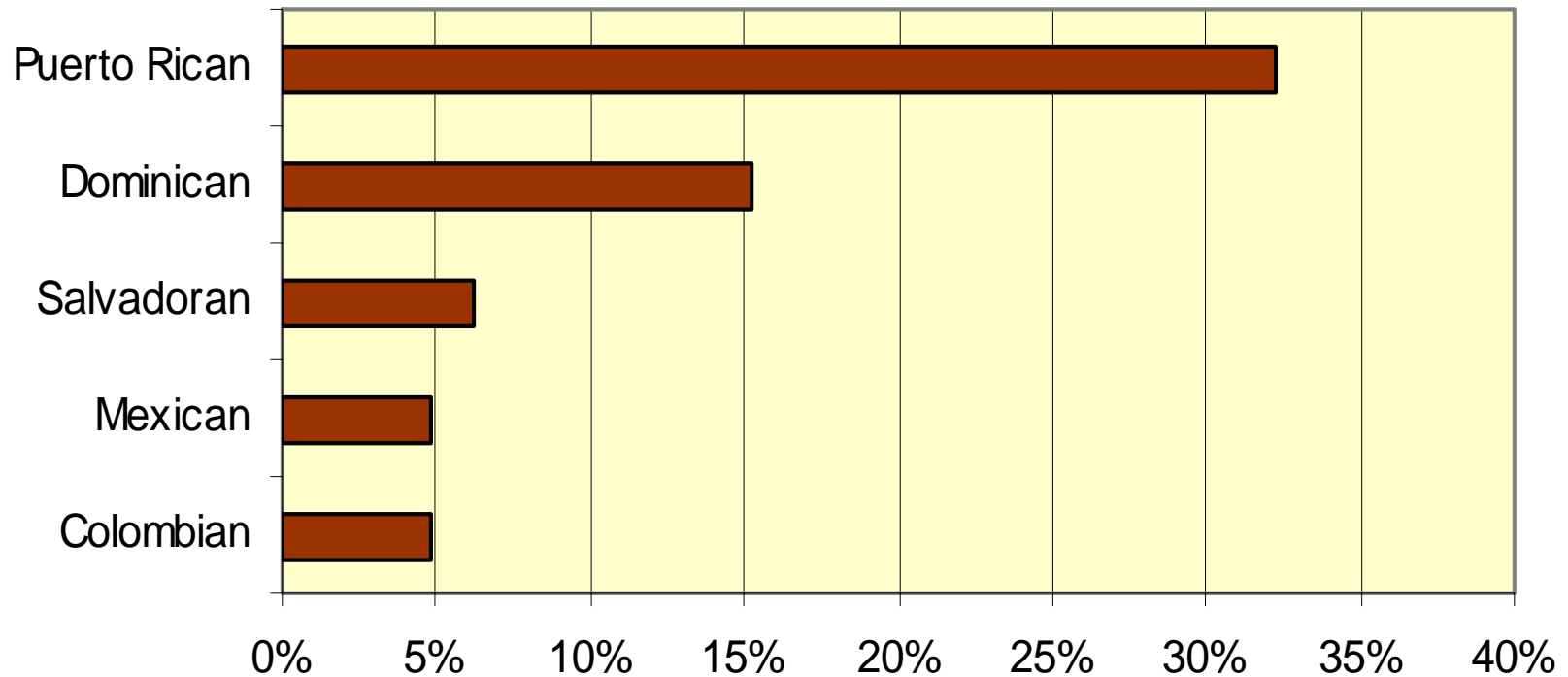
**Africa**



- Ethiopia
- Other Eastern Africa
- Egypt
- Other Northern Africa
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- Other Western Africa
- Other

# Boston's Leading Latino Ethnic Groups (2000)

**Top Latino Ethnic Groups**





# Boston's Ancestry List

- Irish and Italian are the first and second leading ancestries and their recorded number decreased between 1990 and 2000, by 12.4% and 0.3%, respectively.
- Puerto Ricans are the third leading ancestry and their reported number increased by 9%, between 1990 and 2000.
- Between 1990 and 2000, one of the largest reported ancestry increases was Vietnamese.

**Boston's Ancestry, 1990 and 2000**

	Ancestry	1990	2000
1	Irish/Celtic	128,682	93,360
2	Italian	60,178	49,017
3	Puerto Rican	25,183	27,442
4	English	38,385	26,384
5	German	34,054	24,426
6	Unspecified Latino	7,852	19,783
7	Chinese	16,263	19,638
8	American*	10,624	19,387
9	Haitian	12,438	18,979
10	Polish	17,009	13,704
11	Dominican	7,938	12,981
12	Cape Verdean	6,140	11,060
13	French (except Basque)	16,045	10,960
14	Vietnamese	4,812	10,818
15	Russian	13,756	10,267
16	Jamaican	5,869	8,226
17	Scottish	9,775	7,340
18	French Canadian/Acadian/Cajun	9,037	7,186
19	African	2,194	5,962
20	Salavdoran	3,178	5,333

Note: American refers to people who identified their ancestry as "American", "United States", as a region such as "Southerner", or as a U.S. state such as "Texan" (U.S. Census).

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, BRA Research Division Analysis.

Liming L., Perkins, G., Goetze, R., Vrabel, J., Lewis G., & Consalvo, R., (2001) *Boston's Population – 2000, Changes in Population, Race, Ethnicity in Boston and Boston's Neighborhoods – 1980 to 2000*. Boston: Boston Redevelopment Authority.

Boston Redevelopment Authority. (2005). DRAFT *Gateway City: Immigrants in Boston*. Boston.

# New Bostonians 2005

## ■ Languages





# New Bostonians Speak Over 140 Languages

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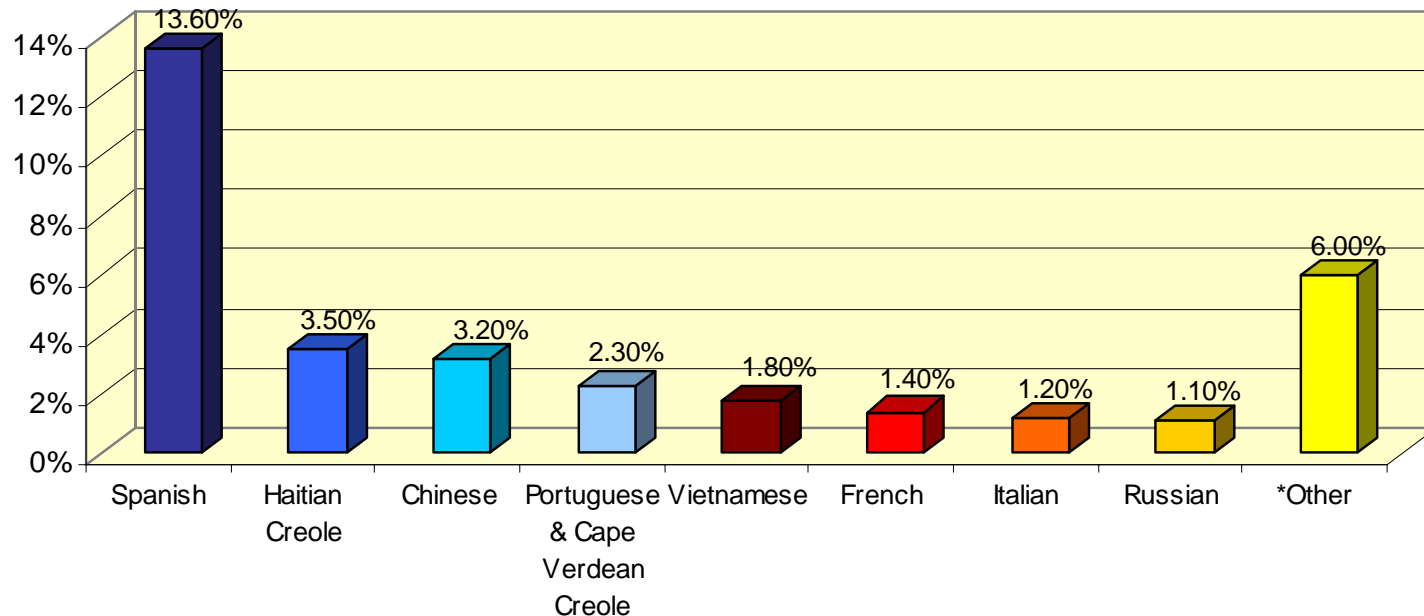
- In 2000, over 33% of residents spoke a language other than English at home, up from 26% in 1990.
- Almost 14% of residents speak Spanish at home up from 10% in 1990.
- Over 6% speak an Asian language at home, up from 4% in 1990.



# Leading Languages Spoken in Boston

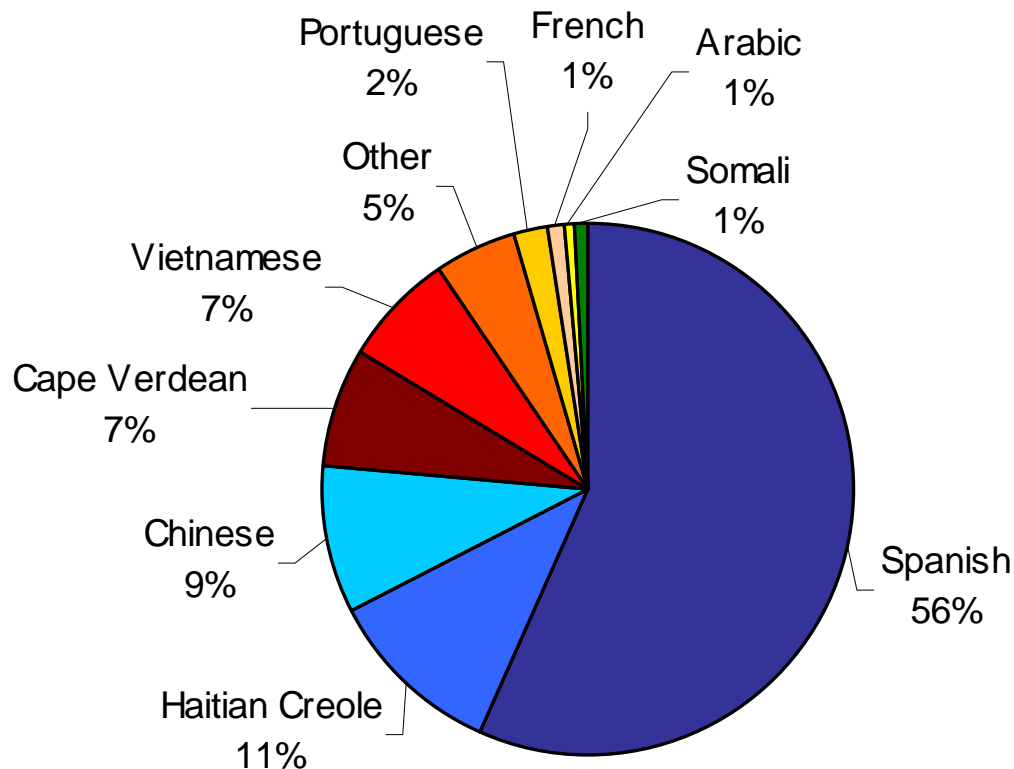
- The most spoken languages include: Spanish, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Portuguese/Cape Verdean Creole, Vietnamese, and French.
- 66.6% of Boston residents speak only English, 33.4% speak a language other than English.

Share of Languages Other than English Spoken in Boston, 2000



# New Bostonian Youth Speak Many Languages

## Languages Spoken in Boston Public Schools\*, 2004



- 54.5% of students in Boston Public Schools speak only English.
- 43.8% or 26,535 students speak another language.
- 20% of Boston's schoolchildren speak a language other than English in their homes.
- In 2004 there were 10,150 students in Boston Public Schools' programs for English language learners.
- Every year, approximately 200-300 high school age immigrants enter Boston Public Schools, usually in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

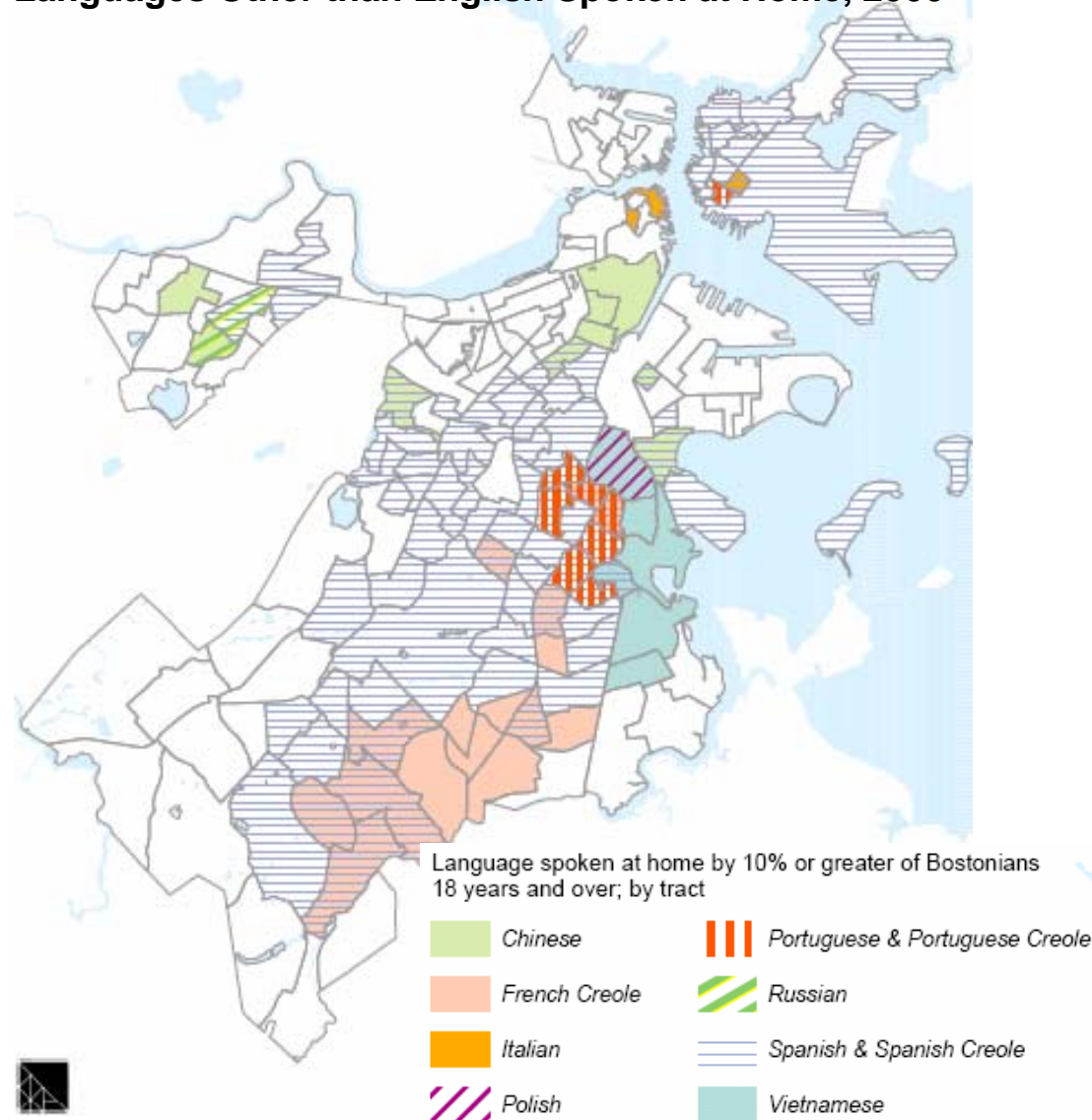
Note: \* Languages other than English.

Source: Edwards, V. (2004). The Public School Population: Home Language Study 2004. Boston.

# Boston Has Multilingual Neighborhoods

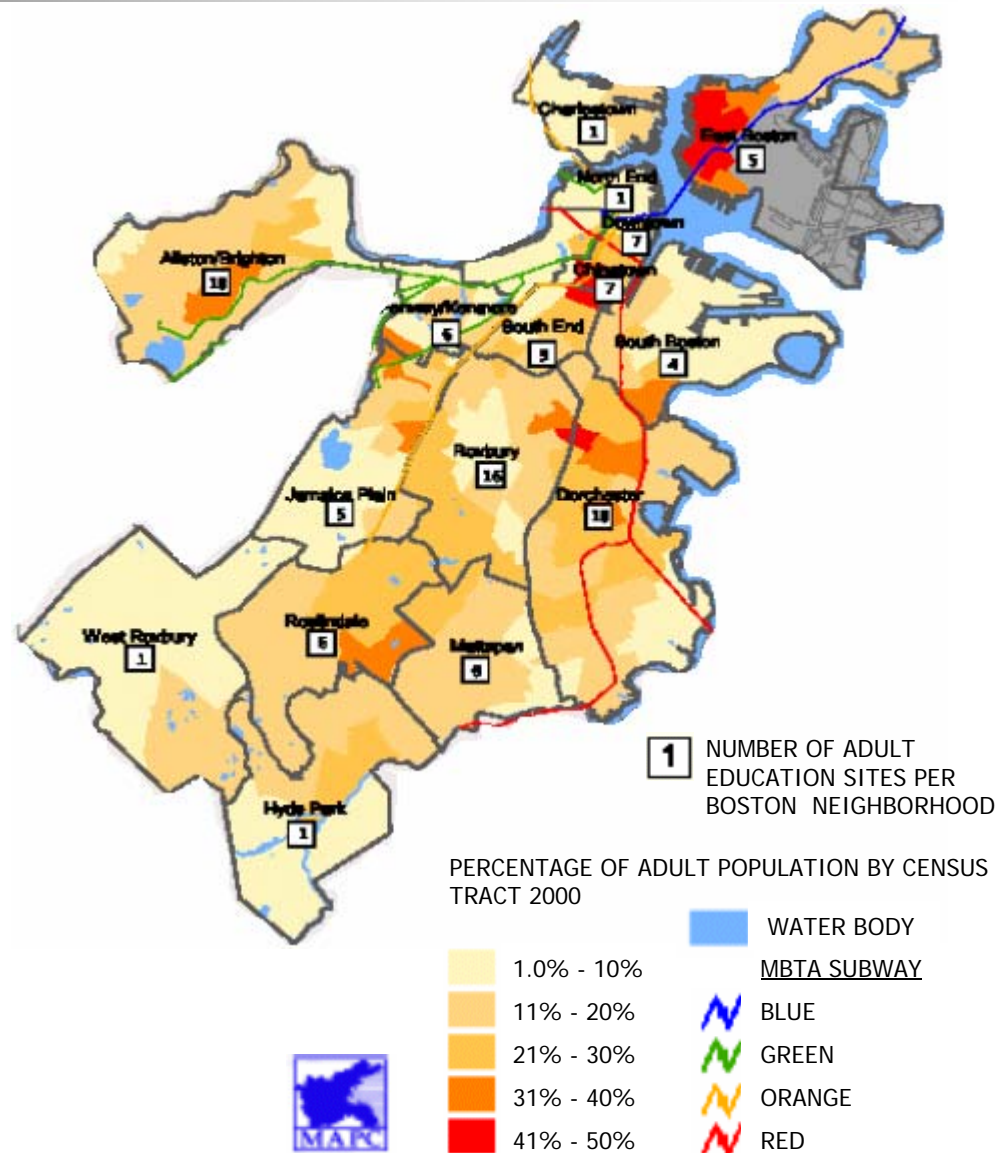
- In all Boston neighborhoods 33% of the total population speak a language other than English at home.
- Neighborhoods with the highest share of people speaking a language other than English at home are East Boston (55%), North Dorchester (48%), Roslindale (40%), Roxbury (37%), Allston/Brighton (36%) and the South End (35%)
- Spanish is highly represented in East Boston, Roxbury, and Jamaica Plain with over 20% people speaking Spanish at home.

## Languages Other than English Spoken at Home, 2000



# Boston's Adults With English as a Second Language and Literacy Sites by Neighborhoods

- In every Boston neighborhood at least 1-10% of adults speak English as a second language.
- East Boston and Chinatown have the highest concentration of adults that speak English as a second language (41%-62%).
- The neighborhoods that follow are Roslindale, Dorchester, Roxbury, and Allston/Brighton.



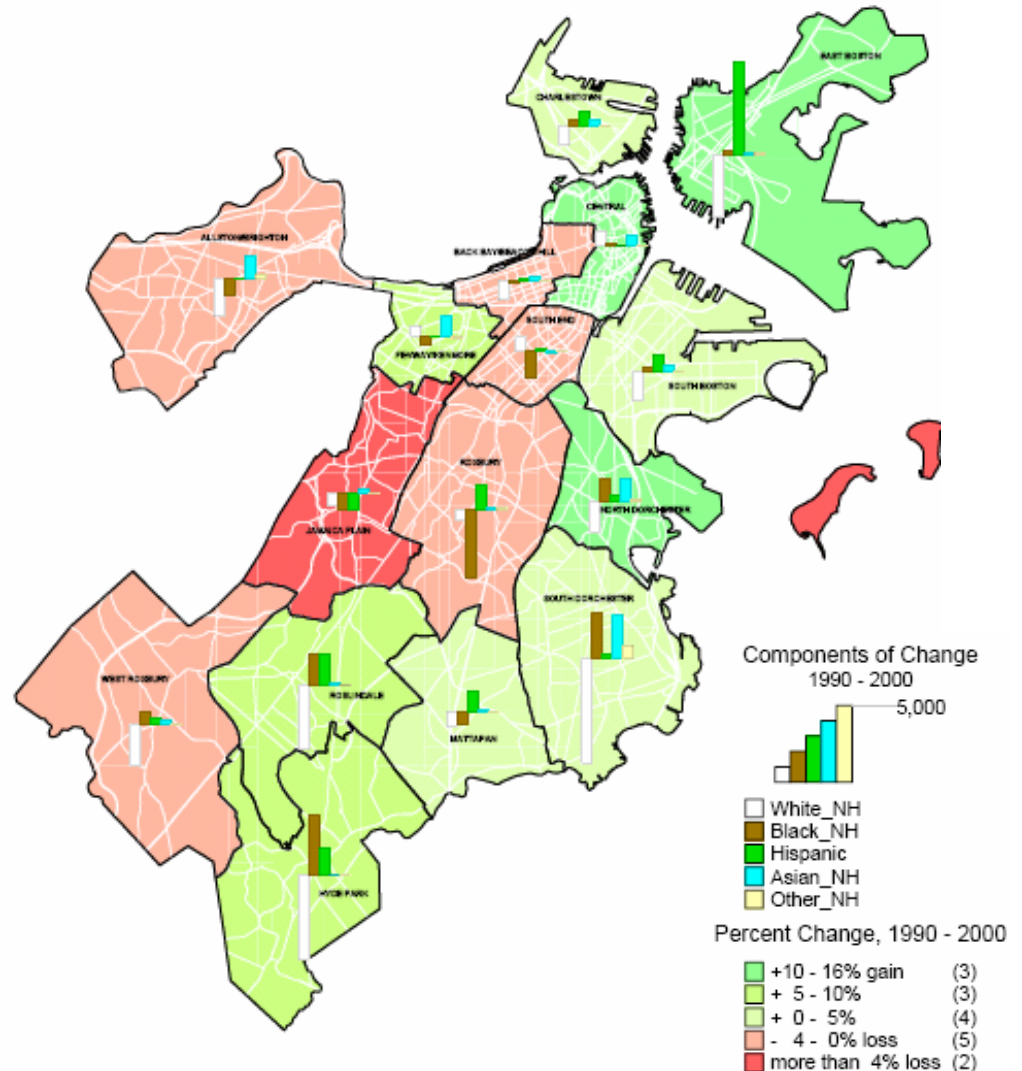
# New Bostonians 2005

## ■ Boston's Neighborhood Diversity



# New Bostonians Mean Diverse Neighborhoods

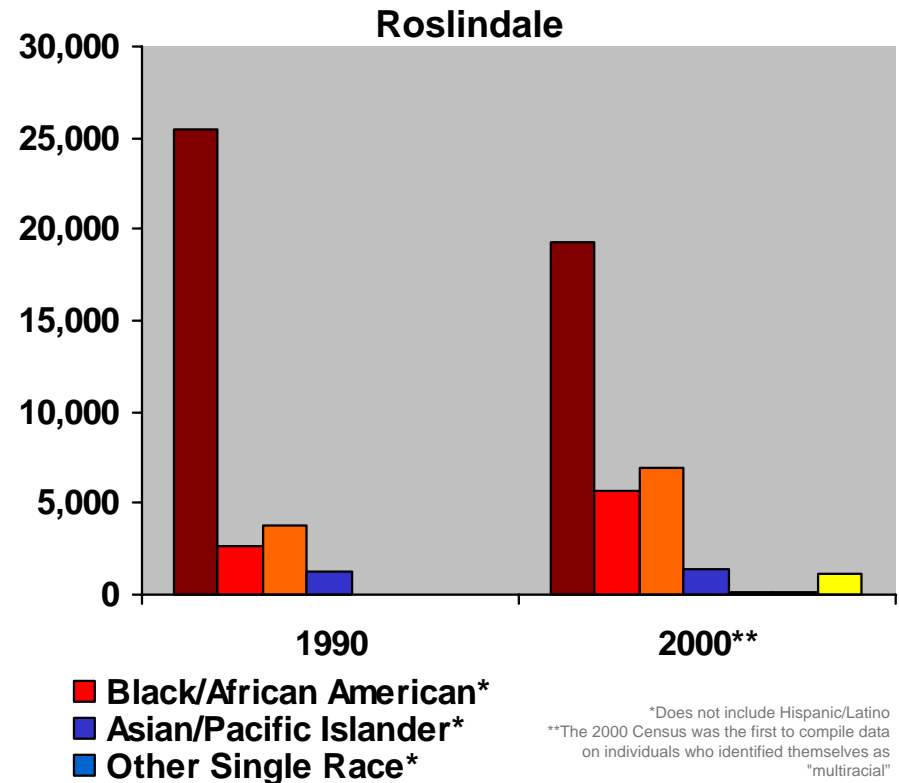
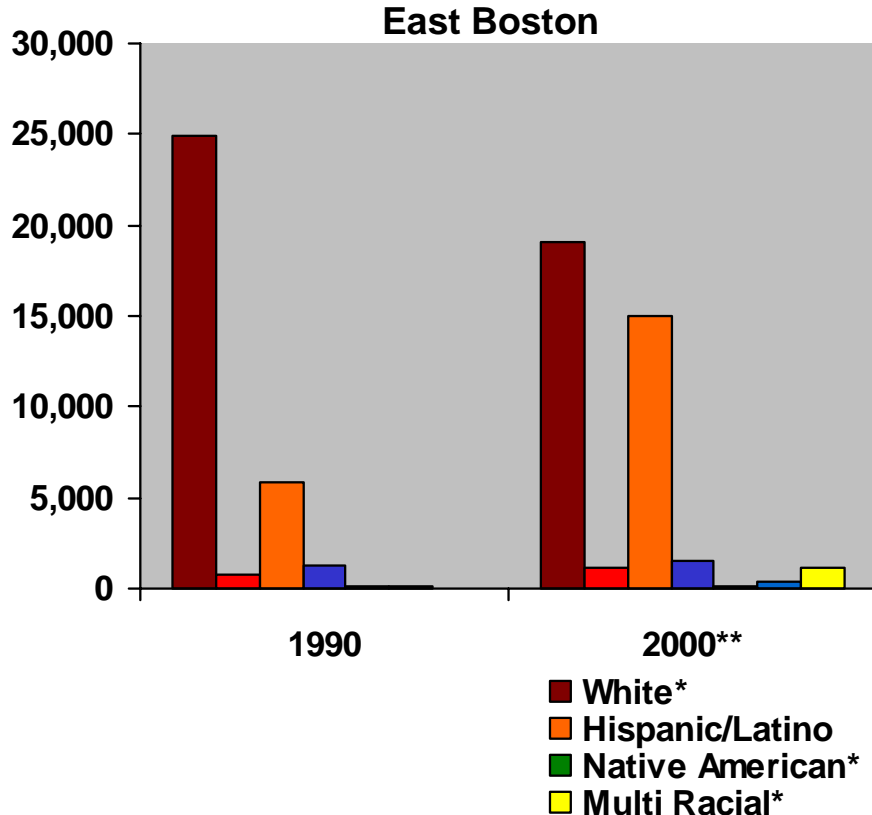
- All of Boston's neighborhoods have experienced an increase in diversity.
- The neighborhoods that have experienced the most dramatic change are:
  - East Boston;
  - Roslindale;
  - Allston/Brighton;
  - Hyde Park; and
  - Dorchester.





# Neighborhoods: East Boston and Roslindale

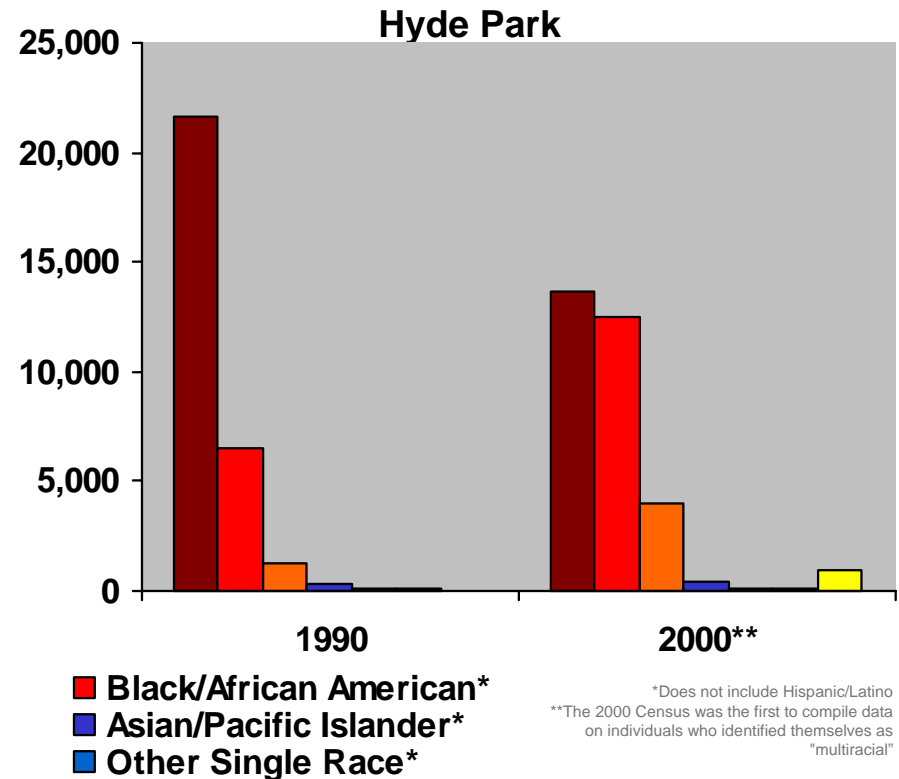
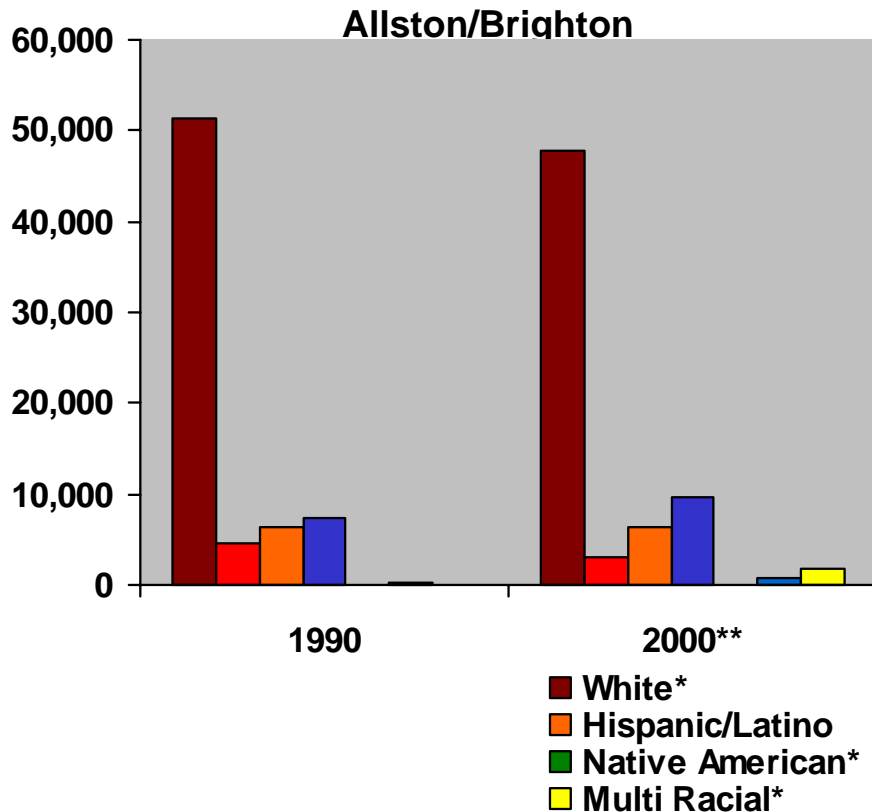
- From 1990 to 2000, East Boston's non-White population grew from 24% to 50%.
- As of 2000, Latinos make up 39% of East Boston's population.
- From 1990 to 2000, Roslindale's non-White population grew from 23% to 44%.
- Roslindale's population is very mixed, with a large number of Latinos.



\*Does not include Hispanic/Latino  
 \*\*The 2000 Census was the first to compile data on individuals who identified themselves as "multiracial"

# Neighborhoods: Allston/Brighton and Hyde Park

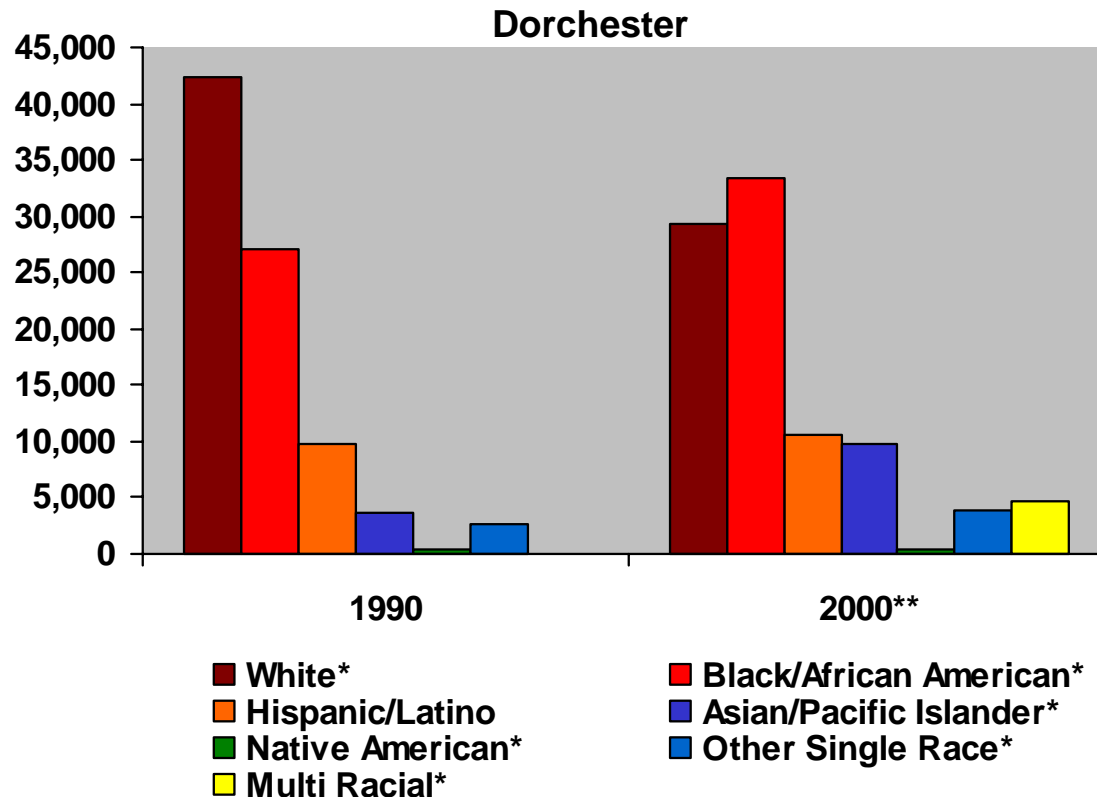
- As of 2000, minorities made up 31% of Allston/Brighton's population.
- Minorities make up more than half of Hyde Park's current population (57%), compared to 27% in 1990.
- Hyde Park is home to a large number of Black/African Americans and Latinos.





# Neighborhoods: Dorchester

- As of 2000, non-Whites made up more than two thirds of Dorchester's population (68%).
- The largest groups in this neighborhood are Black/African American and Asians.



\*Does not include Hispanic/Latino  
\*\*The 2000 Census was the first to compile data  
on individuals who identified themselves as  
"multiracial"

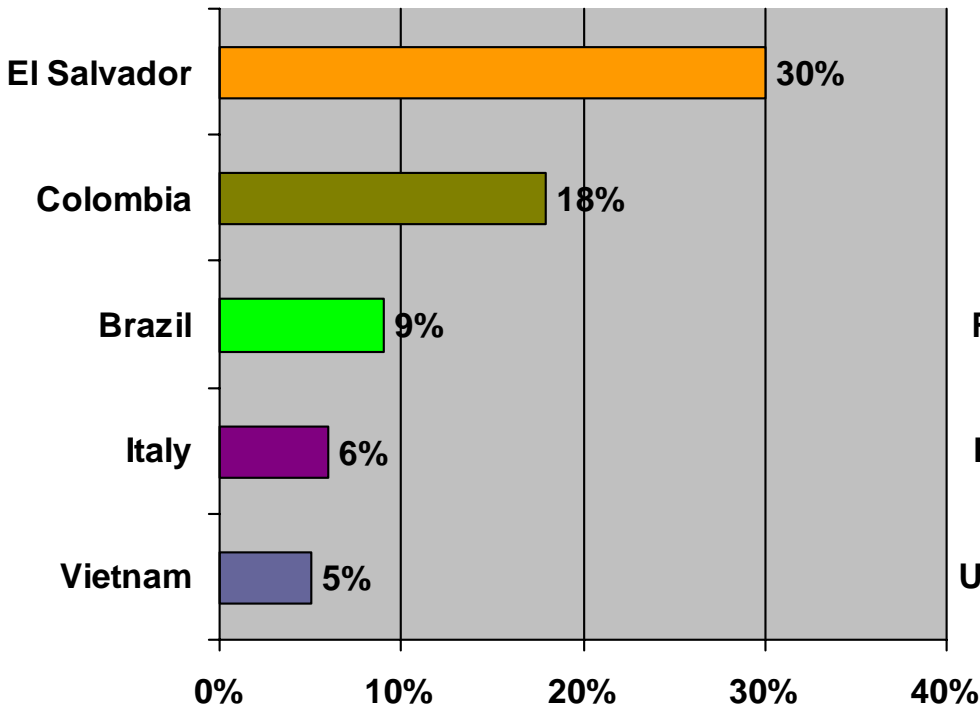
# Between 1990 and 2000, All of Boston's Neighborhoods Experienced Changes in the Foreign-Born Population

Neighborhood	Foreign Born in 1990		Foreign Born in 2000		Changes	
	Foreign Born	Percent of Foreign Born in Neighborhood	Foreign Born	Percent of Foreign Born in Neighborhood	Absolute Change	Percentage Change
<i>Boston Total</i>	<i>114,597</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>151,836</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>37,239</i>	<i>32%</i>
Allston/Brighton	20,396	29%	22,016	33%	1,620	8%
Fenway/Kenmore	5,674	17%	7,974	23%	2,300	41%
Back Bay/Beacon Hill	3,342	12%	3,155	12%	-187	-6%
Central	6,101	28%	6,480	26%	379	6%
Charlestown	733	5%	2,111	15%	1,378	188%
East Boston	7,695	23%	16,051	45%	8,356	109%
South Boston	2,133	7%	3,717	13%	1,584	74%
South End	5,196	18%	6,201	23%	1,005	19%
Roxbury	9,323	16%	12,501	24%	3,178	34%
Dorchester	20,372	24%	29,492	32%	9,120	45%
Mattapan	9,568	27%	10,706	31%	1,138	12%
Roslindale	6,050	18%	9,048	28%	2,998	50%
Jamaica Plain	9,123	22%	9,157	25%	34	0%
West Roxbury	3,714	13%	4,929	18%	1,215	33%
Hyde Park	5,097	17%	8,246	28%	3,149	62%

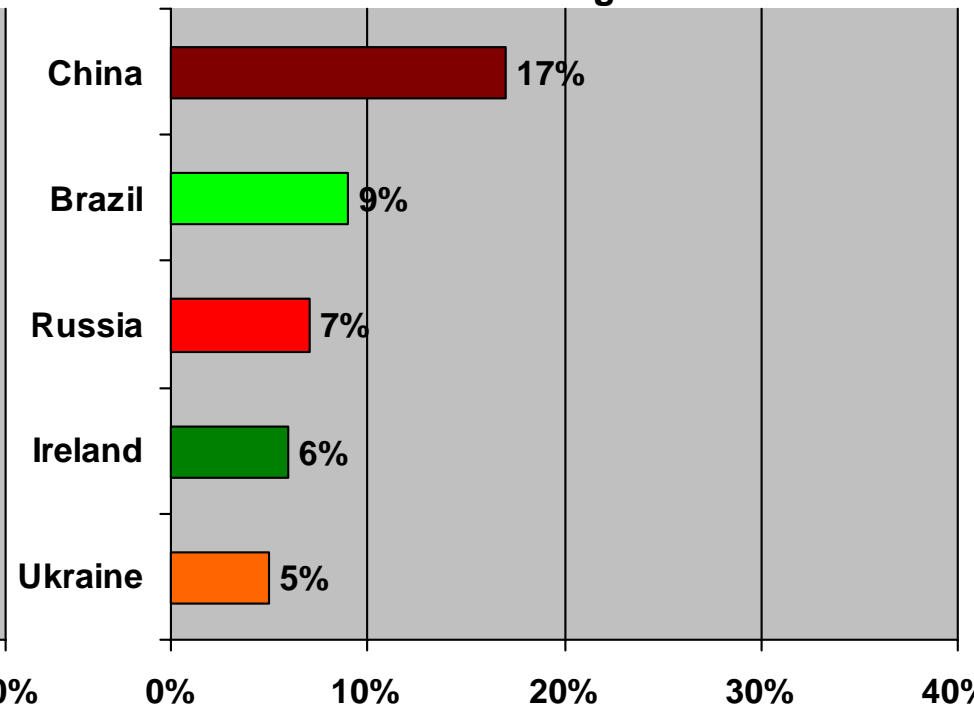
# Neighborhoods with a Share of Foreign-Born Higher than the City Average

- East Boston has the highest share of the foreign-born population and also experienced the largest increase in the number of foreign-born residents between 1990 and 2000.
- Salvadorans make up the largest proportion of foreign-born residents in East Boston.
- Allston/Brighton is the neighborhood with the second largest share of foreign-born residents. Chinese make up the largest foreign-born group in this neighborhood.

**Top Countries of Origin  
East Boston**



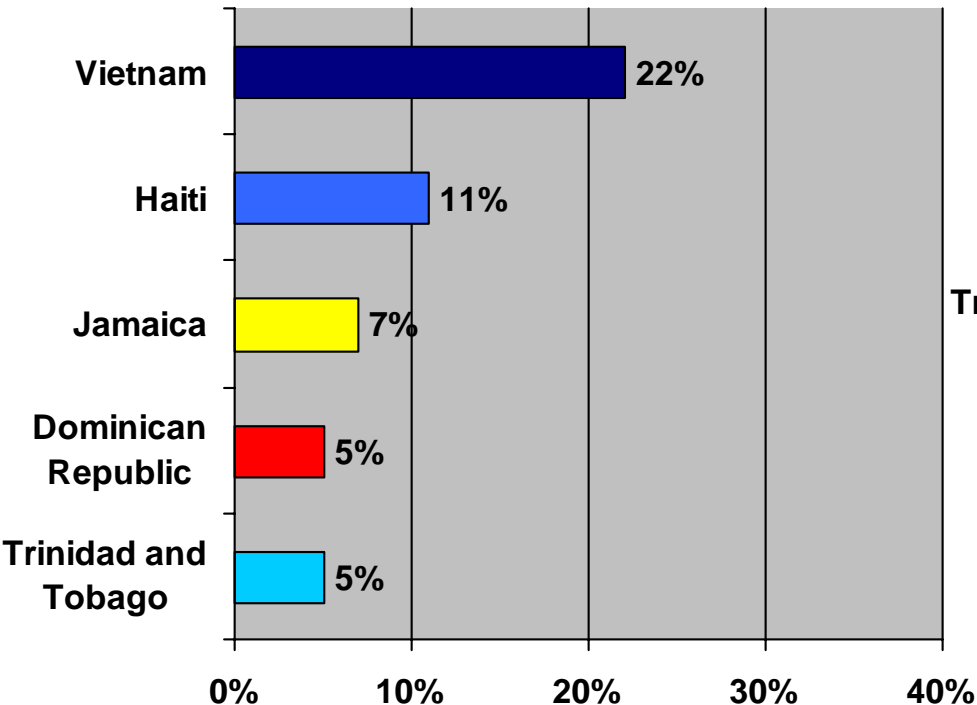
**Top Countries of Origin  
Allston/Brighton**



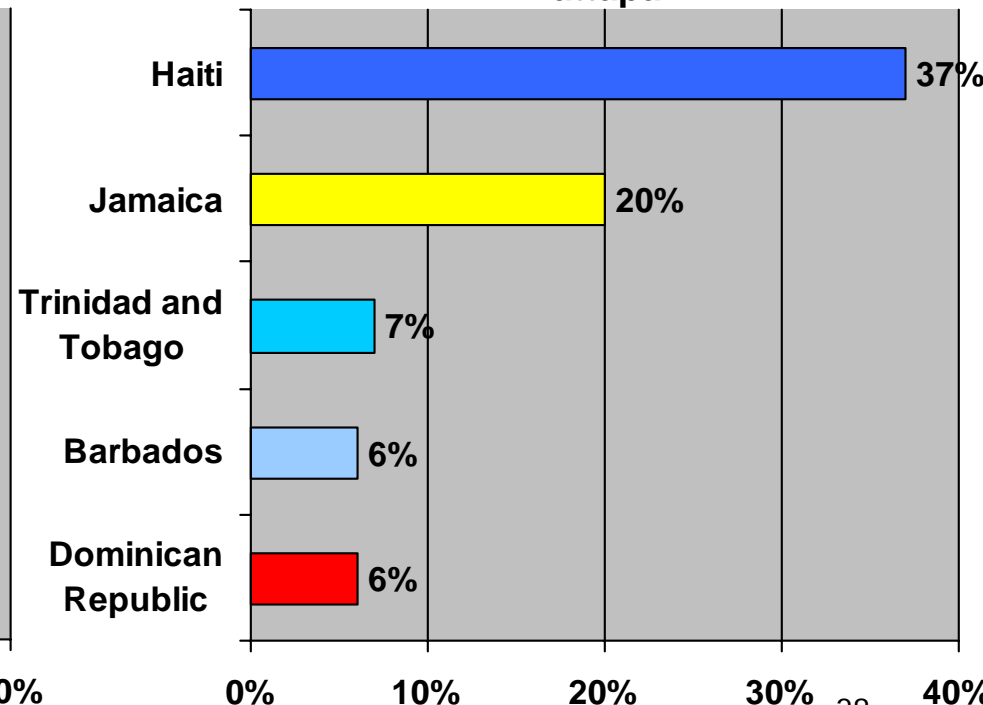
# Neighborhoods with a Share of Foreign-Born Higher than the City Average

- Dorchester is home to the third largest share of foreign-born residents among the city's neighborhoods.
- Vietnamese make up the largest population of foreign-born residents in Dorchester.
- Mattapan has the fourth largest share of foreign-born residents. Haitians, who are Boston's largest foreign-born population are the largest in Mattapan as well.

**Top Countries of Origin  
Dorchester**



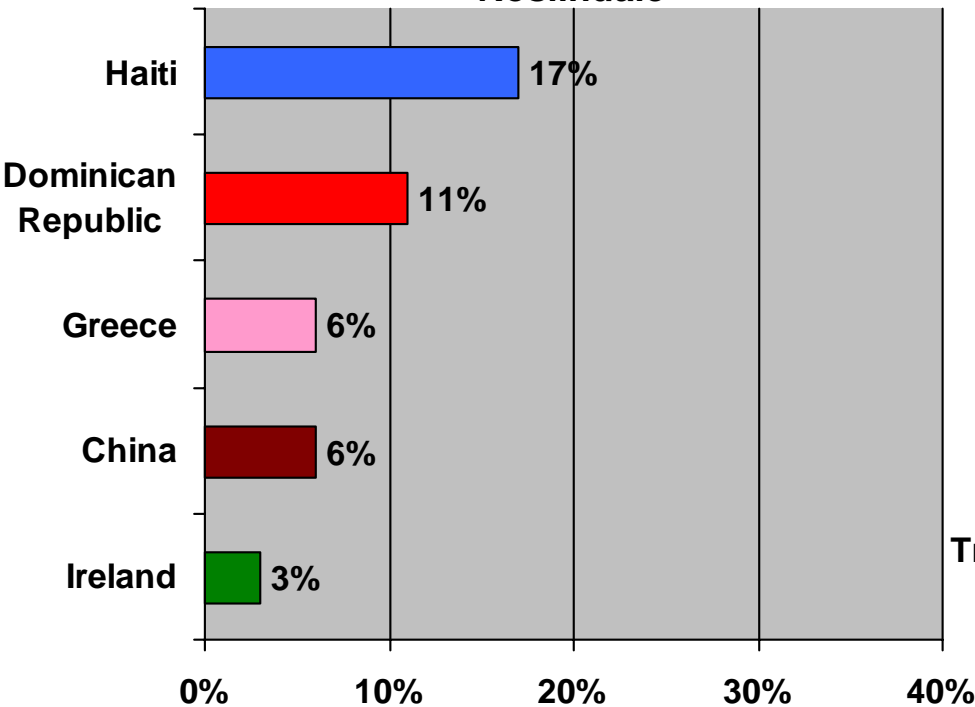
**Top Countries of Origin  
Mattapan**



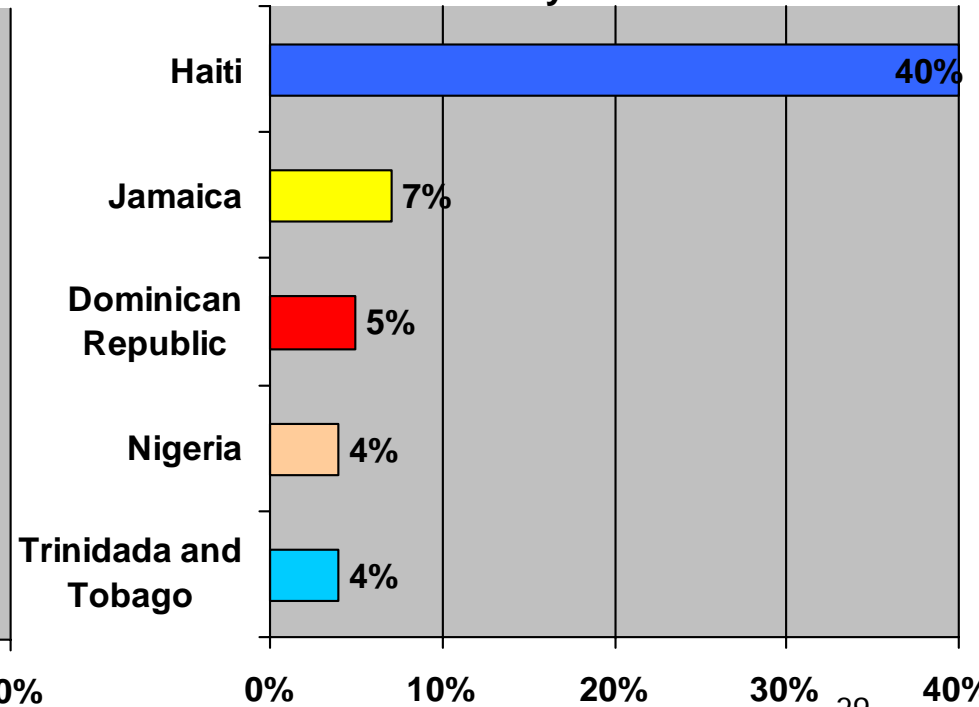
# Neighborhoods with a Share of Foreign-Born Higher than the City Average

- Roslindale has the fifth largest share of the foreign-born population. Haitians make up the largest group in this neighborhood.
- 10% of both Hyde Park and Roslindale are foreign-born. Haitians make up the largest foreign-born population here as well. The proportion of the Haitian population in Hyde Park is double that of Roslindale.

**Top Countries of Origin  
Roslindale**



**Top Countries of Origin  
Hyde Park**



# New Bostonians 2005

## ■ Economic Contributions & Labor Force





# Immigrants are Significant Economic Contributors

- Immigrants in Boston spend, from their after tax earnings, just over \$3 billion annually. These annual expenditures generate a regional product of \$2.8 billion in local expending and \$823 million in State and Federal taxes.
- Annual expenditures generate 25,350 additional jobs in the local economy.
- Immigrants further contribute to Boston's economy through entrepreneurship.
  - They own more than 8,000 small businesses in the greater Boston area in different industry sectors.
  - Combined, these businesses represent more than \$5.5 billion in annual sales and employ nearly 37,000 people.
  - They contribute about \$9.5 billion to the regional product, \$304 million in State and Federal taxes and they create an additional 35,368 jobs.



# Immigrants are Critical Contributors to the Labor Force

- Between 1990 and 2001, new immigrants made up more than half of the growth of the nation's entire civilian workforce.
- Immigrants filled both the high and low ends of the market statewide: high-skill jobs in engineering, information technology, and the sciences; and low-skill jobs in manufacturing and service.
- From 2000 to 2004, MA remained dependent on the immigrant labor force. Without immigrants, the state's labor force would have shrunk. By 2004, immigrants accounted for 17% of the state's workforce, a sharp increase from 1980 when immigrants were only at 8.8%.
- Immigrants will be critical to filling future labor gaps. It is a fact that 76 million baby boomers will retire by 2030, while only 46 million native-born workers will have entered the workforce.



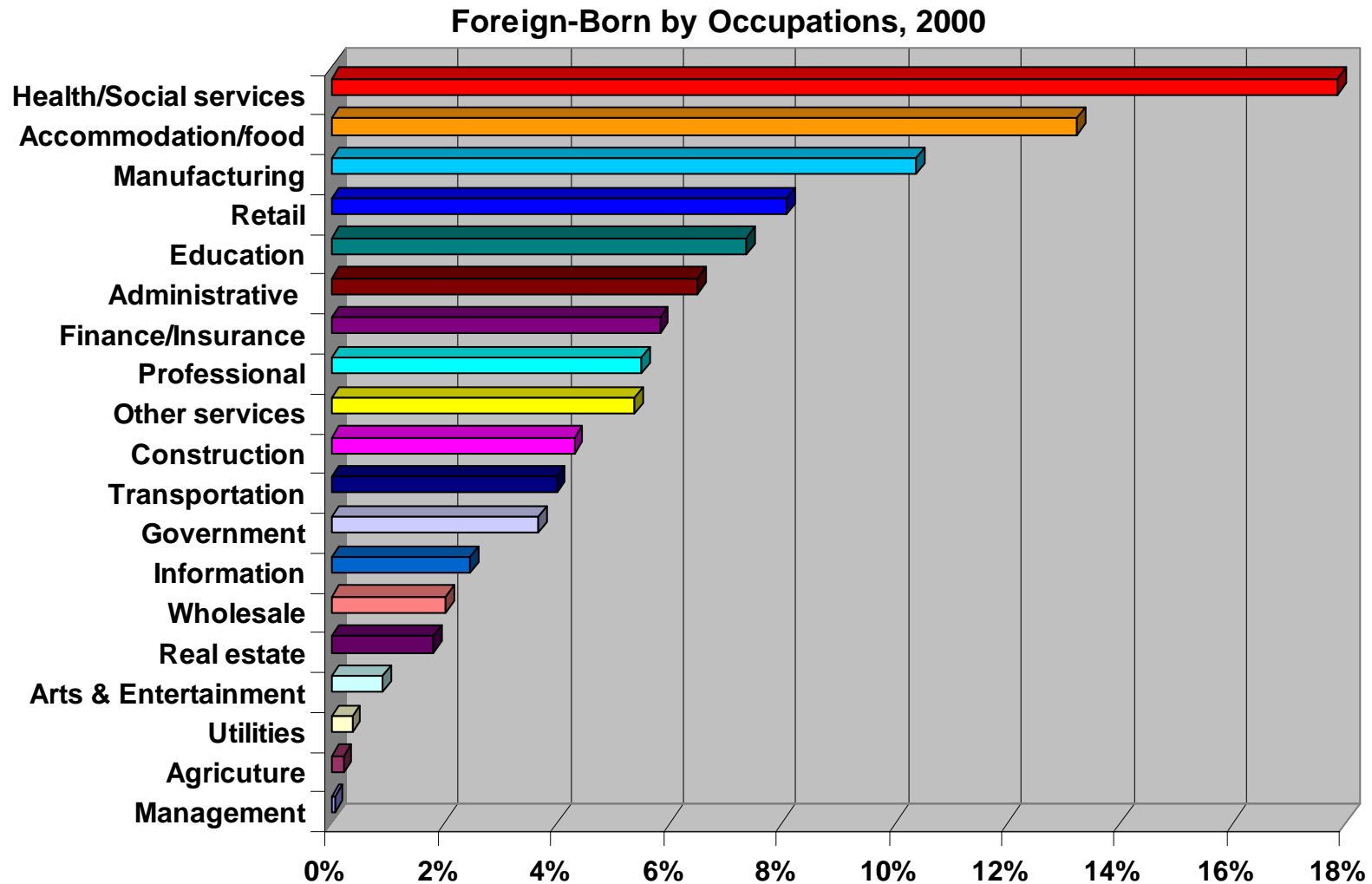


## New Bostonians are Employed in Many Industries

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- About 16% of both naturalized and non-naturalized immigrants work in blue collar industries including manufacturing, utilities, wholesale trade, and transportation.
- 41% of naturalized immigrants, compared to 34% non-naturalized immigrants, work in "knowledge-based" industries including finance, professional services, health services, and education.
- 31% of non-naturalized immigrants work in retail, administration support, accommodation and food service industries compared to 22% of naturalized citizens.

# New Bostonian's Leading Occupations



# New Bostonians 2005

## ■ English Proficiency





# New Bostonians Need to Improve English Proficiency

- Since 1980, the overall share of immigrants in MA who speak only English at home decreased from 35% to 20.6%, while the share with limited English speaking skills increased from 17.5% to 21.5%.
- In 2000, 46,000\* or 8% of all Boston residents lacked English proficiency compared to 6% in 1990.
  - About one-quarter of all Spanish speakers do not speak English well.
  - Of all Asian language speakers about one-third do not speak English well.
- 26,000 households in Boston are linguistically isolated, in which no person aged 14 years and over speaks English “only” or “very well.”
- In 2000, more than one third of all adult immigrants in Boston (38%) either lack a high school diploma or have limited English speaking skills.

\* Universe is Boston's resident population.

Sources: Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth. (2005). The Changing Face of Massachusetts. Boston.

Consalvo, R. (2002). Demographic Changes 1990-2000. Boston: Boston Redevelopment Authority, presented at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Banking on the Community Conference, October 8, 2002.

U.S. Bureau of Census, BRA Research Division Analysis.



# New Bostonians Need Improved Access to Acquire English Proficiency

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- In 2004, there were at least 3,500 people waiting to enroll in English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) classes in the city of Boston.
- 6 months to 3 years is the average wait for an individual to start an ESOL class.

# New Bostonians 2005

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## ■ Educational Attainment

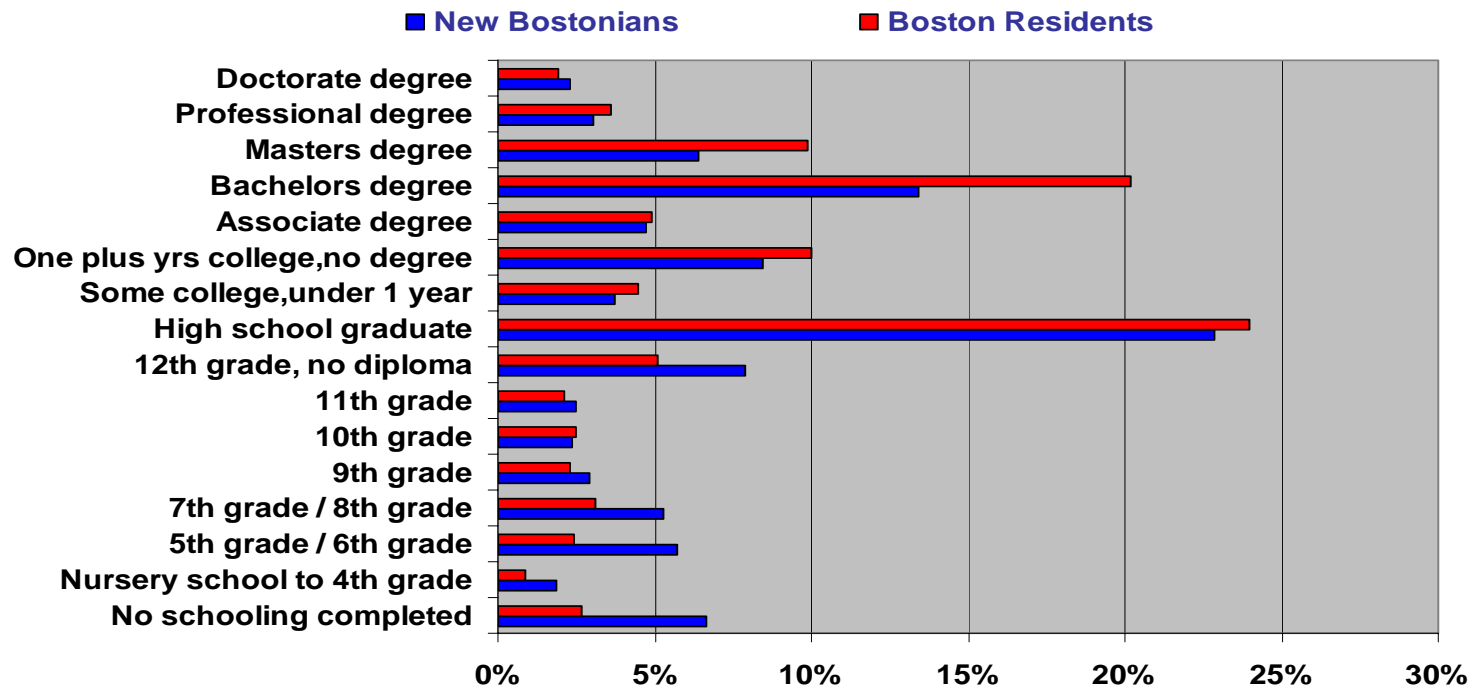


# Educational Attainment

For immigrants 25 years and older, in Boston:

- One in four (25%) has a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to the city average of 36%;
- 22.8% have a high school diploma, compared to the city's 24%;
- 35.2% have not completed high school, compared to the city's 21.1%.

**Educational Attainment, 2000**



# New Bostonians 2005

## ■ Homeownership







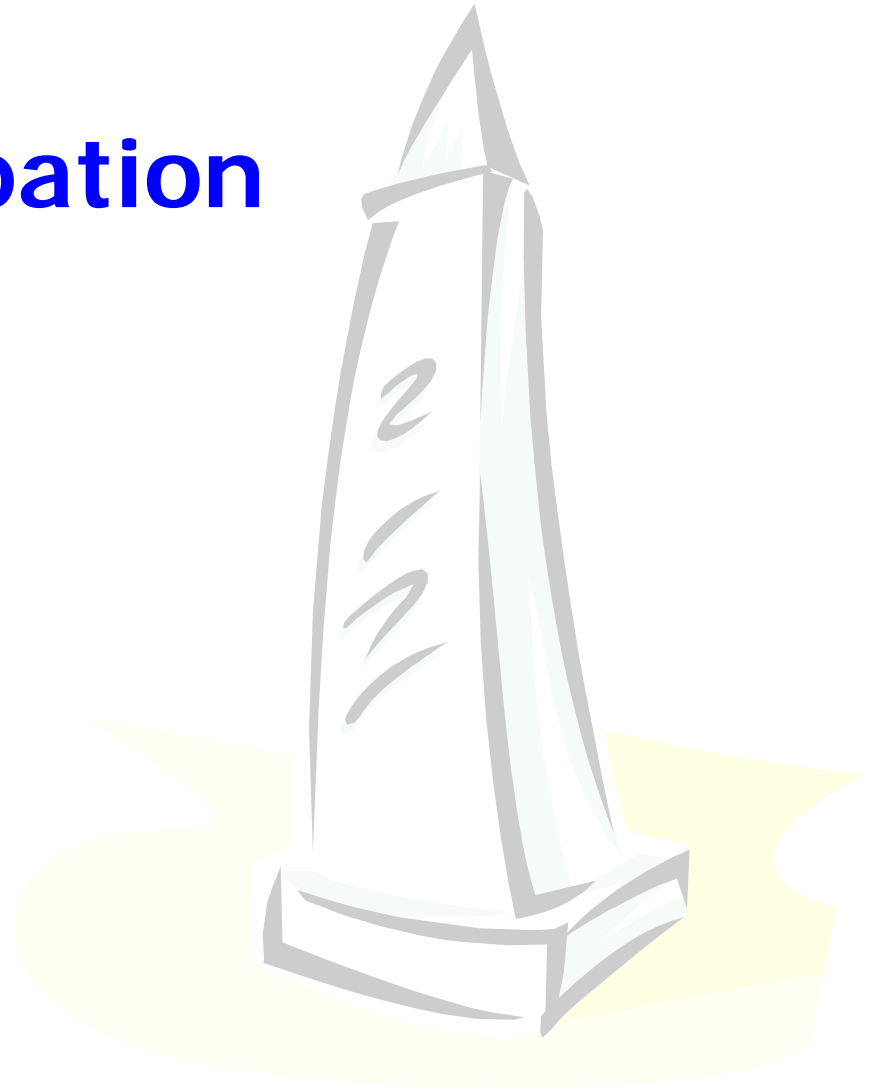
## Over Half of New Bostonians are Renters

- Both 68% of Boston residents and 68% of immigrants rent a home in Boston.
- 30% of immigrants own a home in Boston, compared to a citywide homeownership rate of 32%.

# New Bostonians 2005

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- **Citizenship**
- **Political Participation**





# Political Affiliations of Leading Groups in Massachusetts and Boston

## Massachusetts

### Latinos

18-29 yrs.:

- 34% Democrat
- 21% Republican
- 26% Independent

55+ yrs.:

- 64% Democrat
- 17% Republican
- 12% Independent

## Boston

### Asians

- 33% Democrat
- 10% Republican
- 56% Independent

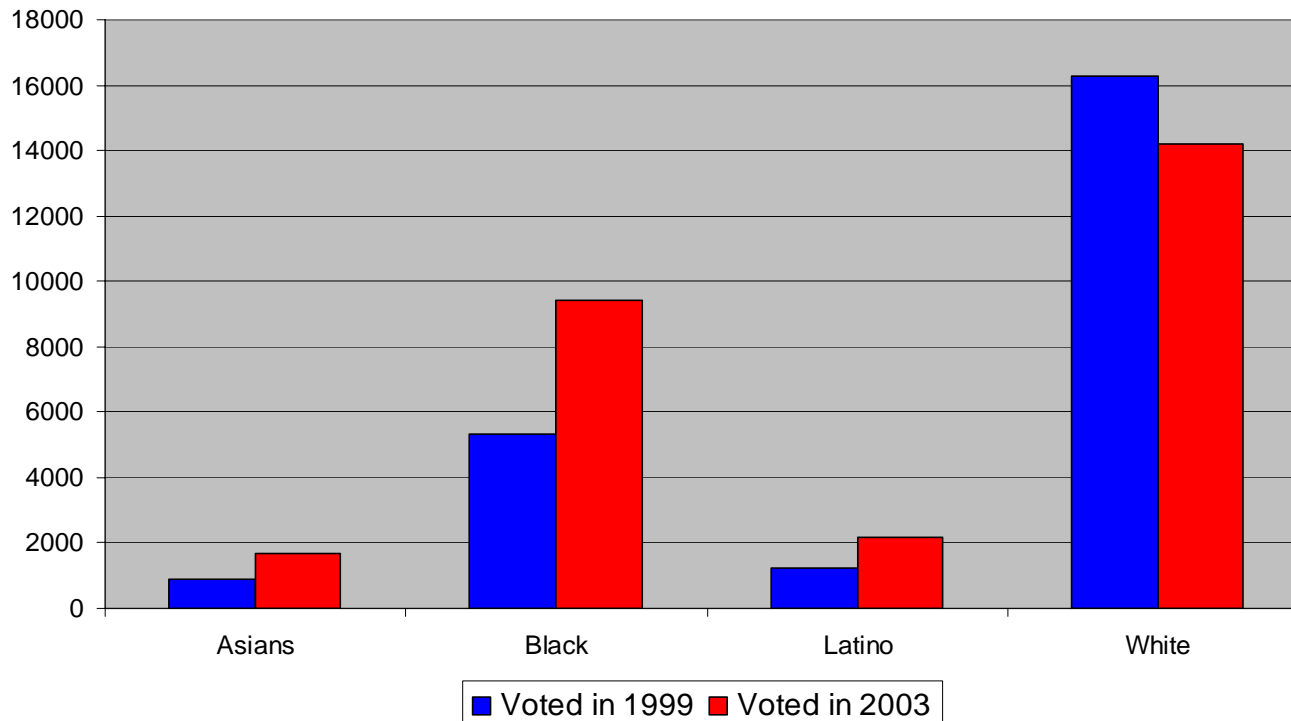
### Haitians

- 73% Democrat
- 5% Republican
- 22% Independent

# Boston's Voting Trends Demonstrate an Increase in Minorities at the Polls

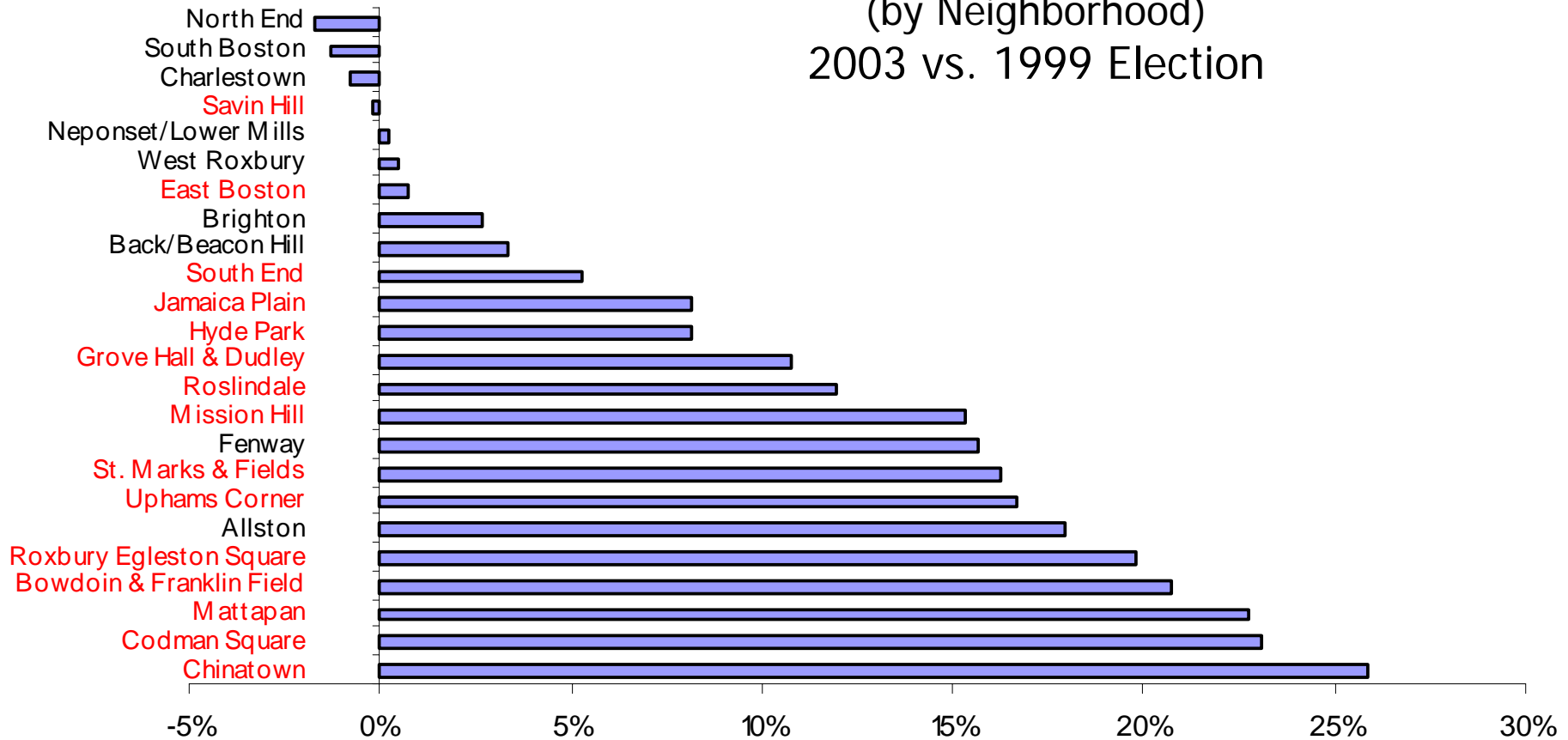
- The turnout gap between minority and White voters narrowed between 1999 and 2003.
  - The number of minority voters increased while the number of White voters decreased.

**Change in Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity**



# Boston's General Elections

## Percentage Increase in Voter Turnout (by Neighborhood) 2003 vs. 1999 Election

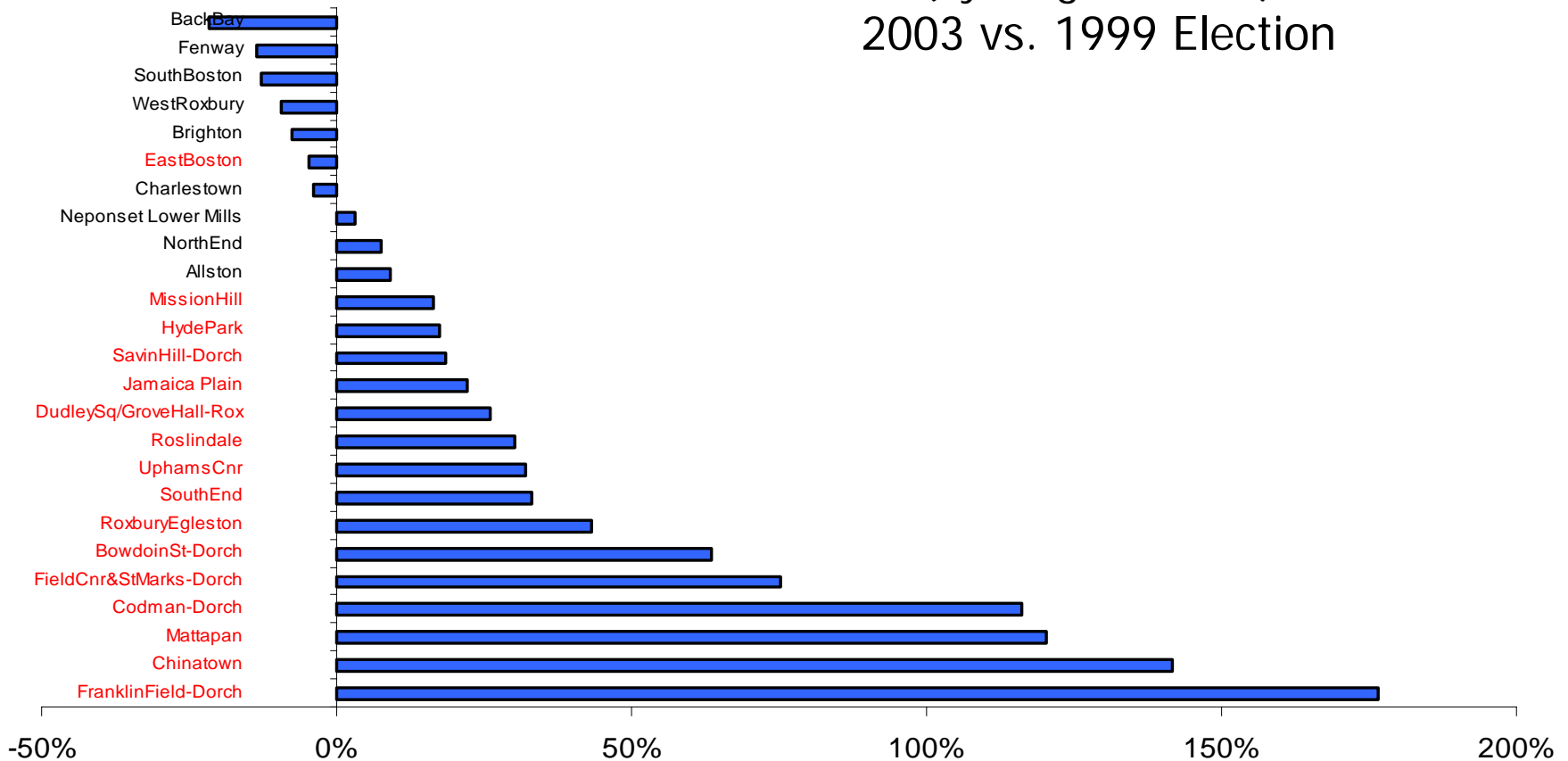


Note: Percentage in number of voters casting ballots November, 2003 vs 1999 election, Source: Boston Vote.

Source: MassVOTE (2004). Urban Voters Go to the Polls: Comparing Voter Turnout in Massachusetts Cities: 2000 to 2004. Boston.

# Boston's City Elections

## Percentage Increase in Voter Turnout (by Neighborhood) 2003 vs. 1999 Election

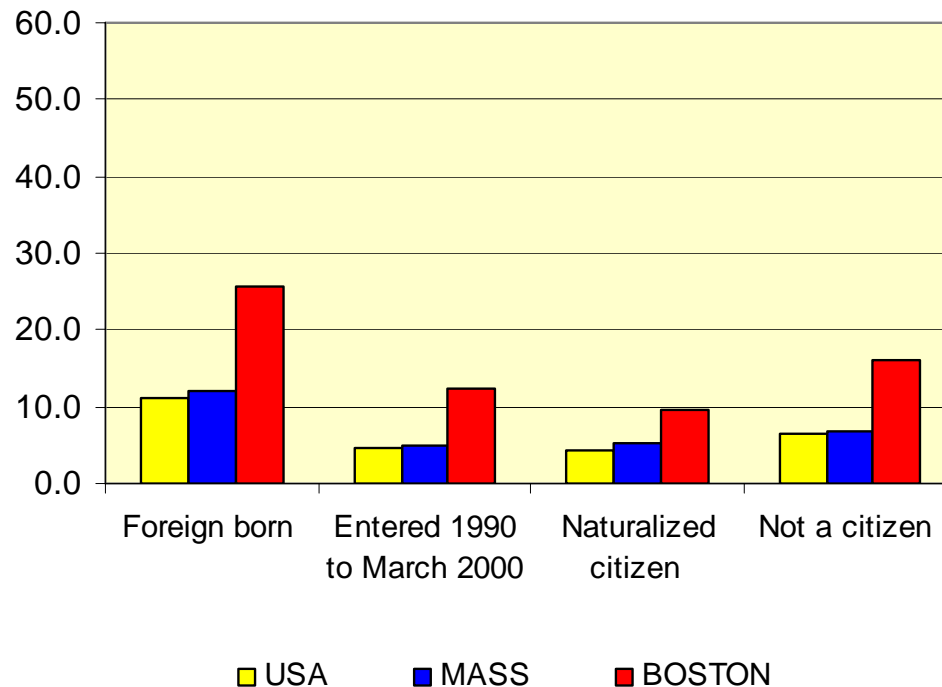


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Source: MassVOTE (2004). [Urban Voters Go to the Polls: Comparing Voter Turnout in Massachusetts Cities: 2000 to 2004](#). Boston.

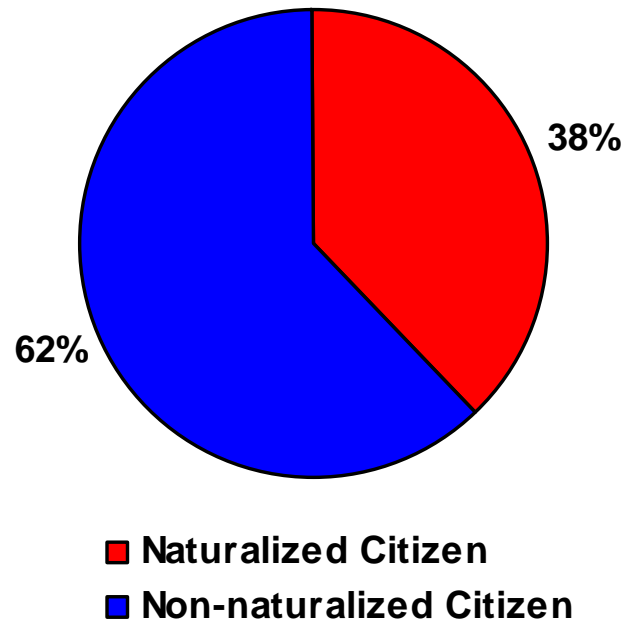
# Many New Bostonians are Becoming U.S. Citizens

- Almost half of US immigrant residents (49%) entered the country in the past 10 years.
- 1 in 10 Boston residents is a naturalized citizen, up from 1 in 14 only ten years ago.



# Yet, Many New Bostonians Are Not Naturalized

**Citizenship Status for Foreign-born Population in Boston, 2000**





# New Bostonians 2005

## ■ Future Trends





# New Bostonians are Critical to the Future for Boston and Massachusetts

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- Boston's projected population for 2005 is 45% White and 55% non-White (many of whom are immigrants).
- "New immigrants will account for an increasing share of the state and region's labor force growth."



# Immigrant Youth are Critical to the State's Future

- Nearly one-quarter of all Massachusetts children are either immigrants or the children of immigrants.
- With their children, immigrants make up 20% of the U.S. population, a 43% increase since 1990.
- Nearly half (47%) of all young immigrants in MA, between the ages of 16 and 24 who do not speak English well or at all, did not complete high school compared with only 8% of young immigrants who speak English well.



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